WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information providing method of providing information to a user, characterized by comprising:

the input step of inputting a code;

the extraction step of searching a first database for first information corresponding to the input code and extracting the first information;

the attachment step of, when a predetermined condition is satisfied, searching a second database for second information, extracting the second information, and attaching the extracted second information to the first information; and

the step of outputting the first information or the first information having the second information.

2. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the input step comprises inputting the code through a terminal apparatus connected to a network.

3. The method according to claim 1, characterized by further comprising the printing step of printing the output information.

4. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the first information contains information with which the user himself/herself can expect contents or type of the first information.

5. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the second information contains arbitrary

advertisement information.

6. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the predetermined condition is a condition that attachment of the second information is permitted in addition to the first information corresponding to the input code.

7. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the predetermined condition is a condition that there is a margin for printing the second information in addition to the first information.

8. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the predetermined condition is a condition that a type of information registered by the user in advance is detected in the attachment step as the second information.

9. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the first database stores a plurality of information extractable as the first information each of which has a code, and the second database stores a plurality of advertisement information extractable as the second information each of which has a code.

10. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that a plurality of information provider servers each having the first database and the second database, and a management server for systematically controlling said plurality of information provider servers are connected through a network.

11. The method according to claim 10, characterized in that said information provider server is included in said management server.

12. The method according to claim 10, characterized in that said management server has a first table which stores a relationship between a code of each first information and said information provider server storing the first information, and

the extraction step comprises specifying said information provider server storing the first information by looking up the first table, searching the first database of said information provider server for the first information corresponding to the input code, and extracting the first information.

13. The method according to claim 10, characterized in that said management server has a second table which stores a relationship between a code of each second information and said information provider server storing the second information, and

the attachment step comprises, when the predetermined condition is satisfied, specifying said information provider server storing the second information by looking up the second table, searching the second database of said information provider server for the second information, extracting the second information, and attaching the extracted second information to the first

information.

14. The method according to claim 10, characterized by further comprising the first registration step of registering the first information in the first database.

15. The method according to claim 14, characterized in that the first registration step comprises the storage step of storing the registered first information together with a code for identifying the registered first information.

16. The method according to claim 15, characterized in that a server identifier for discriminating one information provider server from the remaining information provider servers is assigned in advance to each of said plurality of information provider servers, and

the storage step comprises storing the registered first information in said information provider server together with a code including the server identifier of said information provider server and an information identifier for discriminating the registered first information from the remaining information in said information provider server.

17. The method according to claim 14, characterized in that the first registration step comprises

the image input step of inputting an original image,

the step of sending the input original image to the first database, and

the step of giving a code to be attached to the

original image.

18. The method according to claim 14, characterized in that the first registration step comprises

the character information input step of inputting character information,

the step of sending the input character information to the first database, and

the step of giving a code to be attached to the character information.

19. The method according to claim 14, characterized by further comprising the first change step of changing the first information registered in the first database.

20. The method according to claim 14, characterized by further comprising the deleting step of deleting the first information registered in the first database.

21. The method according to claim 1, characterized by further comprising the second registration step of registering the second information in the second database.

22. The method according to claim 21, characterized in that the second registration step comprises the storage step of storing the registered second information together with a code for identifying the registered second information.

23. The method according to claim 2, characterized in that said terminal apparatus stores terminal specification information associated with specifications of said

terminal apparatus in advance,

the input step comprises inputting the terminal specification information together with the code, and

the attachment step comprises determining using the terminal specification information whether the predetermined condition is satisfied.

24. The method according to claim 1, characterized by further comprising the third registration step of registering in advance, in units of users, user profile information used to determine whether the predetermined condition is satisfied.

25. The method according to claim 24, characterized in that the input step comprises inserting an identifier for identifying the user into the code and inputting the code containing the user identifier for identifying the user, and

the attachment step comprises specifying a corresponding user profile on the basis of the received user identifier, searching for the second information corresponding to the user profile, extracting the second information, and attaching the extracted second information to the first information.

26. A mail extraction method of extracting mail addressed to a user from a mail server, characterized by comprising:

the step of sending an input user identifier to said mail server;

the extraction step of extracting mail selected by the user from said mail server;

the determination step of determining whether another information corresponding to the user is to be searched for and extracted;

the attachment step of, upon determining that the another information corresponding to the user is to be extracted, extracting the another information and attaching the information to the mail;

the step of outputting the mail having the another information; and

the printing step of printing the output mail.

27. The method according to claim 26, characterized by further comprising the deleting step of, when printing is ended in the printing step, deleting the printed mail from said mail server.

28. The method according to claim 26, characterized by further comprising the input step of inputting the user identifier.

29. An information providing system for providing information to a user, characterized by comprising:

input means for inputting a code;

extraction means for searching a first database for first information corresponding to the input code and extracting the first information;

attachment means for, when a predetermined condition

is satisfied, searching a second database for second information, extracting the second information, and attaching the extracted second information to the first information; and

output means for outputting the first information or the first information having the second information.

30. The system according to claim 29, characterized in that said system has a terminal apparatus connected to a network, and said input means inputs the code from said terminal apparatus through a network.

31. The system according to claim 29, characterized in that said system has a terminal apparatus connected to a network, and said terminal apparatus comprises printing means for printing the output information.

32. The system according to claim 29, characterized in that the first information contains information with which the user himself/herself can expect contents or type of the first information.

33. The system according to claim 29, characterized in that the second information contains arbitrary advertisement information.

34. The system according to claim 29, characterized in that the predetermined condition is a condition that attachment of the second information is permitted in addition to the first information corresponding to the input code.

35. The system according to claim 27, characterized in that the predetermined condition is a condition that there is a margin for printing the second information in addition to the first information.

36. The system according to claim 29, characterized in that the predetermined condition is a condition that a type of information registered by the user in advance is detected by said attachment means as the second information.

37. The system according to claim 29, characterized in that the first database stores a plurality of information extractable as the first information each of which has a code, and the second database stores a plurality of advertisement information extractable as the second information each of which has a code.

38. The system according to claim 29, characterized in that a plurality of information provider servers each having the first database and the second database, and a management server for systematically controlling said plurality of information provider servers are connected through a network.

39. The system according to claim 38, characterized in that said information provider server is included in said management server.

40. The system according to claim 38, characterized in that said management server has a first table which stores a relationship between a code of each first information and

said information provider server storing the first information, and

said extraction means specifies said information provider server storing the first information by looking up the first table, searches the first database of said information provider server for the first information corresponding to the input code, and extracts the first information.

41. The system according to claim 38, characterized in that said management server has a second table which stores a relationship between a code of each second information and said information provider server storing the second information, and

said attachment means specifies, when the predetermined condition is satisfied, said information provider server storing the second information by looking up the second table, searches the second database of said information provider server for the second information, extracts the second information, and attaches the extracted second information to the first information.

42. The system according to claim 38, characterized by further comprising first registration means for registering the first information in the first database.

43. The system according to claim 42, characterized in that said first registration means comprises storage means for storing the registered first information together with

a code for identifying the registered first information.

44. The system according to claim 43, characterized in that a server identifier for discriminating one information provider server from the remaining information provider servers is assigned in advance to each of said plurality of information provider servers, and

said storage means stores the registered first information in said information provider server together with a code including the server identifier of said information provider server and an information identifier for discriminating the registered first information from the remaining information in said information provider server.

45. The system according to claim 42, characterized in that said first registration means comprises

image input means for inputting an original image,

means for sending the input original image to the first database, and

code giving means for giving a code to be attached to the original image.

46. The system according to claim 45, characterized in that said system comprises a terminal apparatus having a scanner, and said information provider server having the first database, which are connected through a network,

said image input means comprises said scanner, and

said information provider server has said code giving

means.

47. The system according to claim 42, characterized in that said first registration means comprises

character information input means for inputting character information,

means for sending the input character information to the first database, and

code giving means for giving a code to be attached to the character information.

48. The system according to claim 47, characterized in that said system comprises a terminal apparatus having external storage means, and said information provider server having the first database, which are connected through a network,

said character information input means inputs the character information from a storage medium supplied to said external storage means, and

said information provider server has said code giving means.

49. The system according to claim 42, characterized by further comprising first change means for changing the first information registered in the first database.

50. The system according to claim 42, characterized by further comprising deleting means for deleting the first information registered in the first database.

51. The system according to claim 29, characterized by

further comprising second registration means for registering the second information in the second database.

52. The system according to claim 51, characterized in that said second registration means comprises storage means for storing the registered second information together with a code for identifying the registered second information.

53. The system according to claim 30, characterized in that said terminal apparatus stores terminal specification information associated with specifications of said terminal apparatus in advance,

said input means inputs the terminal specification information together with the code, and

said attachment means determines using the terminal specification information whether the predetermined condition is satisfied.

54. The system according to claim 29, characterized by further comprising third registration means for registering in advance, in units of users, user profile information used to determine whether the predetermined condition is satisfied.

55. The system according to claim 54, characterized in that said input means inserts an identifier for identifying the user into the code and inputs the code containing the user identifier for identifying the user, and

said attachment means specifies a corresponding user profile on the basis of the received user identifier,

searches for the second information corresponding to the user profile, extracts the second information, and attaches the extracted second information to the first information.

56. A mail extraction system for extracting mail addressed to a user from a mail server, characterized by comprising:

means for sending an input user identifier to said mail server;

means for extracting mail selected by the user from said mail server;

determination means for determining whether another information corresponding to the user is to be searched for and extracted;

attachment means for, upon determining that the another information corresponding to the user is to be extracted, extracting the another information and attaching the information to the mail;

output means for outputting the mail having the another information; and

printing means for printing the output mail.

57. The system according to claim 56, characterized by further comprising deleting means for, when printing is ended by said printing means, deleting the printed mail from said mail server.

58. The system according to claim 57, characterized by further comprising input means for inputting the user

identifier.

59. A terminal apparatus comprising said scanner of claim 46, said input means of claim 30, and said printing means of claim 31.

60. A computer-readable storage medium which stores an information providing program for providing information to a user, characterized by comprising:

the input step of inputting a code;

the extraction step of searching a first database for first information corresponding to the input code and extracting the first information;

the attachment step of, when a predetermined condition is satisfied, searching a second database for second information, extracting the second information, and attaching the extracted second information to the first information; and

the step of outputting the first information or the first information having the second information.

61. The medium according to claim 60, characterized in that the input step comprises inputting the code through a terminal apparatus connected to a network.

62. The medium according to claim 60, characterized by further comprising the printing step of printing the output information.

63. The medium according to claim 60, characterized in that the first information contains information with which

the user himself/herself can expect contents or type of the first information.

64. The medium according to claim 60, characterized in that the second information contains arbitrary advertisement information.

65. The medium according to claim 60, characterized in that the predetermined condition is a condition that attachment of the second information is permitted in addition to the first information corresponding to the input code.

66. The medium according to claim 62, characterized in that the predetermined condition is a condition that there is a margin for printing the second information in addition to the first information.

67. The medium according to claim 60, characterized in that the predetermined condition is a condition that a type information registered by the user in advance is detected in the attachment step as the second information.

68. The medium according to claim 60, characterized in that the first database is caused to store a plurality of information extractable as the first information each of which has a code, and the second database is caused to store a plurality of advertisement information extractable as the second information each of which has a code.

69. The medium according to claim 60, characterized in that said program is applied in a plurality of information

provider servers each having the first database and the second database, and a management server for systematically controlling said plurality of information provider servers, which are connected through a network.

70. The medium according to claim 69, characterized in that said information provider server is included in said management server.

71. The medium according to claim 69, characterized in that said management server has a first table which stores a relationship between a code of each first information and said information provider server storing the first information, and

the extraction step comprises specifying said information provider server storing the first information by looking up the first table, searching the first database of said information provider server for the first information corresponding to the input code, and extracting the first information.

72. The medium according to claim 69, characterized in that said management server has a second table which stores a relationship between a code of each second information and said information provider server storing the second information, and

the attachment step comprises, when the predetermined condition is satisfied, specifying said information provider server storing the second information

by looking up the second table, searching the second database of said information provider server for the second information, extracting the second information, and attaching the extracted second information to the first information.

73. The medium according to claim 69, characterized by further comprising the first registration step of registering the first information in the first database.

74. The medium according to claim 73, characterized in that the first registration step comprises the storage step of storing the registered first information together with a code for identifying the registered first information.

75. The medium according to claim 74, characterized in that a server identifier for discriminating one information provider server from the remaining information provider servers is assigned in advance to each of said plurality of information provider servers, and

the storage step comprises storing the registered first information in said information provider server together with a code including the server identifier of said information provider server and an information identifier for discriminating the registered first information from the remaining information in said information provider server.

76. The medium according to claim 73, characterized in that the first registration step comprises

the image input step of inputting an original image,

the step of sending the input original image to the first database, and

the step of giving a code to be attached to the original image.

77. The medium according to claim 73, characterized in that the first registration step comprises

the character information input step of inputting character information,

the step of sending the input character information to the first database, and

the step of giving a code to be attached to the character information.

78. The medium according to claim 73, characterized by further comprising the first change step of changing the first information registered in the first database.

79. The medium according to claim 73, characterized by further comprising the deleting step of deleting the first information registered in the first database.

80. The medium according to claim 60, characterized by further comprising the second registration step of registering the second information in the second database.

81. The medium according to claim 80, characterized in that the second registration step comprises the storage step of storing the registered second information together with a code for identifying the registered second

information.

82. The medium according to claim 61, characterized in that said terminal apparatus stores terminal specification information associated with specifications of said terminal apparatus in advance,

the input step comprises inputting the terminal specification information together with the code, and

the attachment step comprises determining using the terminal specification information whether the predetermined condition is satisfied.

83. The medium according to claim 60, characterized by further comprising the third registration step of registering in advance, in units of users, user profile information used to determine whether the predetermined condition is satisfied.

84. The medium according to claim 83, characterized in that the input step comprises inserting an identifier for identifying the user into the code and inputting the code containing the user identifier for identifying the user, and

the attachment step comprises specifying a corresponding user profile on the basis of the received user identifier, searching for the second information corresponding to the user profile, extracting the second information, and attaching the extracted second information to the first information.

85. A computer-readable storage medium which stores a mail extraction program for extracting mail addressed to a user from a mail server, characterized by comprising:

the step of sending an input user identifier to said mail server;

the extraction step of extracting mail selected by the user from said mail server;

the determination step of determining whether another information corresponding to the user is to be searched for and extracted;

the attachment step of, upon determining that the another information corresponding to the user is to be extracted, extracting the another information and attaching the information to the mail;

the step of outputting the mail having the another information; and

the printing step of controlling to print the output mail.

86. The medium according to claim 85, characterized by further comprising the deleting step of, when printing is ended in the printing step, deleting the printed mail from said mail server.

87. The medium according to claim 85, characterized by further comprising the input step of inputting the user identifier.

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